THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (c) Special Category States Status has been accorded to some States by the National Development Council on the basis of a set of criteria that *inter alia* includes having a strategic location on the border with neighbouring countries, hilly and difficult terrain, inadequate economic and social infrastructure, predominantly large tribal population, and limited and weak resource base compared to development needs. Most States that have been granted Special Category Status during the last two decades have been created out of small Union Territories or from districts of some other States' necessitating creation of administrative infrastructure involving overheads cost that was out of proportion to their resource base.

There is no proposal at present before the Government for including Rajasthan in the list of Special Category States.

Employees in Planning Commission

723. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees working in Planning Commission on daily wages since last 15-20 years;

(b) the nature of work being done by them; and

(c) the reasons for not regularizing their employment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) Six persons, who were working on daily wages in Planning Commission in 1993, are still working on daily wages. However, they were disengaged in 1993 and were reengaged in the years 1996, 1998 and 1999.

(b) They are doing casual nature of work such as shifting of furniture and office equipments etc.

(c) Their employment has not been regularized as per the existing Government instructions.

Gap between development in rural and urban sectors

724. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the gap between the rural and urban sectors is ever widening as far as development and growth are concerned;

(b) whether there are serious disparities in primary education and primary health facilities provided to urban and rural people; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to bridge the gap between development in rural and urban areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) According to the information available from Central Statistical Organisation, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, the per capita income measured in terms of Net Domestic Product (NDP) was Rs.5783 for the rural and Rs.13525 for urban areas in 1993-94, at current prices. The corresponding per capita incomes were Rs. 10606 and Rs. 30217 respectively for 1999-2000, at current prices. No information giving the rural-urban differences in income level is